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## **HYACINTH MACAWS: *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus***

**These gentle giants of the parrot world are well over three feet long. Adults commonly reach lengths of 39 to 40 inches.**

**Hyacinths, as the name suggests, are a deep cobalt blue. In contrast there are areas of bare yellow skin around the eyes and base of the beak.**

**This species is normally found South of the Amazon River deep in the interior of Brazil. Like most all of the large macaws, Hyacinths are declining in the wild and are faced with a real threat of extinction. This is so because the birds have a hard time finding nest sites to bring up a family in. Deforestation is destroying so much of the Hyacinth's habitat or home in the wild that it has a much smaller range in which to find food and raise babies.**

**Not only are humans changing the habitat the birds live in but many are being trapped, stolen, and smuggled out of the country as well. Eggs, babies, and even adults are captured and sold for \$10,000 to \$15,000 a piece in the U.S. market. Some breeders are successfully raising the birds in captivity but the numbers are far fewer than the demand. Until the market value of these spectacular birds drops the smuggling and extreme prices will continue.**

**Hyacinths do make good pets. Although they have a beak capable of cracking Brazil nuts they seldom bite people. These giants are also good talkers and can be seen performing in bird shows. Considering their rarity though Hyacinths should primarily be used as breeders. It is important that all individuals of a species as rare as the hyacinth be bred to help insure the survival of the species and to help insure the "gene pool" remains broad based, healthy and diverse. This is important for without a good healthy gene pool made up of many unrelated birds the species as a whole can become weakened and die from poor health and disease.**